

19 OCTOBER 1955

FRENCH ASSEMBLY VOTE

- I. French National Assembly's larger-than-expected 18 Oct vote of confidence on Faure's Algerian program probably assures him of tenure during coming Geneva conference, even though most deputies no longer really have confidence in Faure.
- A. Many of 308 who voted in his favor supported Faure because they feared consequences of a cabinet crisis and because France's international position was at stake.
- B. Vote (308 to 254) was also more representative of Faure's original right-center majority than was 9 Oct vote (426 to 136) on Morocco.
- C. 44 Peasants and ARS (Gaullist dissidents)--who had voted against his Moroccan policy--switched to his support, largely because of foreign minister Pinay's urging.
- D. Socialists and Communists, who had given him 200 votes on Morocco issue, voted en bloc against him on Algeria.
- E. However, less than a quarter of the 69 GRS (Gaullists) supported Faure.
1. GRS has been a mainstay of Faure cabinet.

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II. Faure's prospects are therefore not bright.

A. His necessary concentration on Geneva during next few weeks will leave him open to attacks from left for failing to give priority to North Africa. Rightists, in turn, will exploit the issue of nationalist disorders in Africa.

B. Other problems that could serve as pretext to overthrow Faure:

1. He will soon be obliged to seek assembly approval for additional budgetary funds.

2. There are prospects of increasing labor unrest.

III. Nevertheless, most Assembly deputies remain reluctant to provoke a cabinet crisis so close to time for elections (which must be held by June 1956).

A. Rightist deputies fear both a possible return of Mendes-France to premiership and the danger that, if kept out of office, Mendes might have a more conservative cabinet than Faure's to attack.

B. Leftist leaders are reluctant to accept cabinet responsibility so late in Assembly's life.

C. Most deputies increasingly reluctant to take on responsibility of premiership now.

D. Finally, in view of the increasing difficulty in obtaining Assembly approval of a premier, many fear that an impasse might occur that could only be settled by dissolution of parliament and an advance in the election day.

1. Most deputies, however, hope to use all of next 8 months to make changes in electoral law and to develop election alliances.

COMPARISON OF 9 AND 18 OCTOBER VOTES

<u>Party</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>9 Oct Vote On Morocco</u>		<u>18 Oct vote on Algeria</u>	
		<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Communist-bloc	98	98			91
Socialists	105	103			100
UDSR	24	21		14	2
Radicals	75	68	5	71	2
MRP	86	84	3	85	1
Overseas Ind.	16	16		14	
Independents	56	39	13	43	6
Peasants	21	7	13	14	4
Ind. Peasants	28	4	22	19	4
Social Reps (GRS)	69	4	55	15	39
ARS	34	5	25	27	2
Unaffiliated	15	13		6	3
	627*	426	136	308	254
			24		20
			622		622
			1		1
		Total	623		623

\*4 seats vacant